



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two defendants were sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. They are among 18 co-defendants from Eastern Jackson County who have pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy.

\* **Michael D. Sanders**, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to seven years in federal prison without parole.

On July 23, 2003, **Sanders** pleaded guilty to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Sanders** admitted that he was operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in two hotel rooms rented at the American Inn in Independence on Jan. 19, 2000. As officers approached **Sanders** in one of the hotel rooms, Graves said, he ran from the officers into the second, attached hotel room and flushed some of the meth-making chemicals down the toilet.

\* **Edward D. Miller, Jr.**, 31, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to three years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 12, 2003, **Miller** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. **Miller** admitted that he was in possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute between Oct. 1, 1999 and Feb. 27, 2003. **Miller** obtained methamphetamine from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories run by several co-defendants, Grave said.

**Sanders** and **Miller** are among 18 co-defendants charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2003.

The other 16 co-defendants, who all are residents of Eastern Jackson County, Mo., have pleaded guilty to charges in the indictment and await sentencing. The co-defendants include: **Douglas W. Williams**, 50, of Independence, Mo.; **Darcy E. Harris**, 39, of Stockton, Mo.; **Tammie L. Avelyn**, 42, of Independence, Mo.; **Sean C. Postpichal**, 27, of Independence, Mo.; **William R. Sands**, 34, of Raytown, Mo.; **Amber G. Watson**, 24, of Independence, Mo.; **Eric C. Koncher**, 38, of Blue Springs, Mo.; **Randall H. Off**, 45, of Oak Grove, Mo.; **Eric C. Hood**, 37, of Independence, Mo.; **Teresa S. Hood**, 41, of Independence, Mo.; **Tommy R. Smith**, 29, of Sibley, Mo.; **William L. Pennington**, 43, of Independence, Mo.; **Brian V. Coen**, 27, of Sugar Creek, Mo.; **Troy L. Goetz**, 35, of Independence, Mo.; **Robin L. Green**, 36, of Independence, Mo.; **Tommy R. Smith**, 29, of Sibley, Mo.; and **David J. Hoerl, Jr.**, 39, of Raytown, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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